

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

IDAHO FALLS
FIRE



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The background of the page features a grayscale photograph of a fire truck's extended aerial ladder. A firefighter is visible on the right side of the ladder, wearing a helmet with 'E-2' on it. The ladder is extended upwards, creating a strong sense of verticality.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Fire Chief Duane Nelson

For the past two years our country has navigated through the challenges of a pandemic, a dramatic economic shift, and political transitions. History has taught us that it's human nature to be fearful, uncomfortable, and resistant during turmoil. But, more importantly, history has taught us that the human spirit learns, accepts, and overcomes. I ended last year's message with words of unity and perseverance; this year is about adaptation. While many would like to wipe tumultuous events from our history books entirely, oftentimes they are the catalyst for change. Either we allow ourselves to get pulled down in the undercurrent or we rise above and adapt. Adaptation was seen in many forms following the pandemic. Families gained a renewed sense of generational interdependence while understanding the importance of self-care. The traditional workforce shifted from the 9-to-5 life in a cubicle to flexible schedules with work spaces that accommodated the ability to care for children and aging parents. The healthcare community gained breakthroughs in technology and a new commitment to preparation and planning. And, our department went from being reactive to building an even stronger foundation that will sustain and serve our rapidly growing community well into the future.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, Idaho was the second-fastest growing state in the country between 2010 and 2020, growing by 17.3 percent during the decade. Bonneville County had its largest population gain of any two-year period in the millennium between 2019 and 2021. Census data also shows that since the start of the pandemic people have moved out of populous areas to smaller communities - an impact we've all felt as we head to the mountains to our favorite camping spot only to find it occupied by others who now realize the benefits of connecting with nature. When rapid growth collides with new legislation that erodes city budgets, those cities must find new ways to meet increased demands while providing the same level of service. The reality is that our current staffing levels are not keeping pace with demand, just as city budgets are not keeping pace with new growth. We have our eyes wide open to these challenges, but remain sharply focused on finding solutions. In the coming months, there will be conversations about impact fees that will growth to pay for growth, as well as proposed legislation that will allow greater reimbursements from Medicaid to EMS providers in Idaho for ground emergency medical transports. We are updating service contracts to reflect population growth in all the counties we serve, as well as applying for grants as a means to fund immediate needs. The farther our city's boundaries expand to the north and south, the longer our response times become. We are working on purchasing Bonneville County Fire Protection District's fire station located on 65th South and fully staffing it with personnel and equipment, as well as building another fire station to the north in the near future. Two additional stations will keep response times down while reducing the physical and mental toll on our personnel. Strategic plans for the next 3-5 years also include reestablishing our Training Division, building a new training facility to replace our aging and outdated facility, and expanding our Fire Prevention Division to allow for more inspections and public outreach and education.

As seen in this report, we are averaging 1,000 more calls each year, with a spike of 2,000 more EMS calls in 2021. One of the major contributing factors to our high call volumes is mental health-related illnesses, seen not only in our community but also in our first responders. Unfortunately, the stark reality is that the waiting list for counseling services is months out. We are fortunate to have a contract in place with a local provider who is readily available for first responders who are in crisis, and we will continue our efforts at making sure our employees' needs are met.

I offer my sincere gratitude to the diverse team of men and women of the Idaho Falls Fire Department for their dedicated service. Despite the challenges, our members continue to advance our mission. I am proud to represent each and every one of them. Finally, I offer my appreciation to our Mayor, City Council, City Directors, partnering agencies, and community for their continued support. We are proud to serve this community and look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2022. -Fire Chief Duane Nelson

MISSION | PHILOSOPHY | BUDGET



Mission

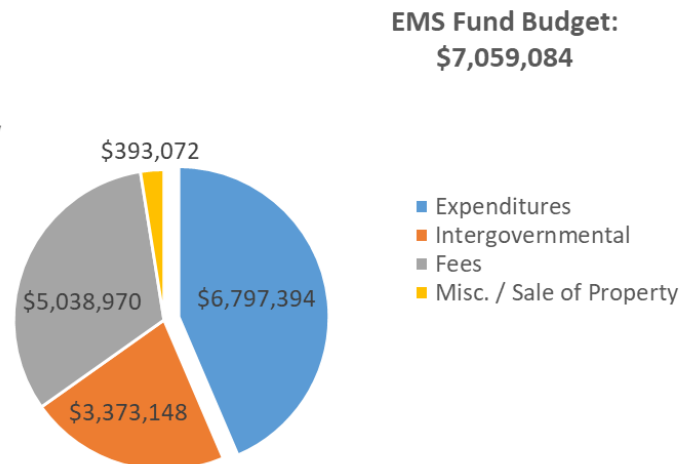
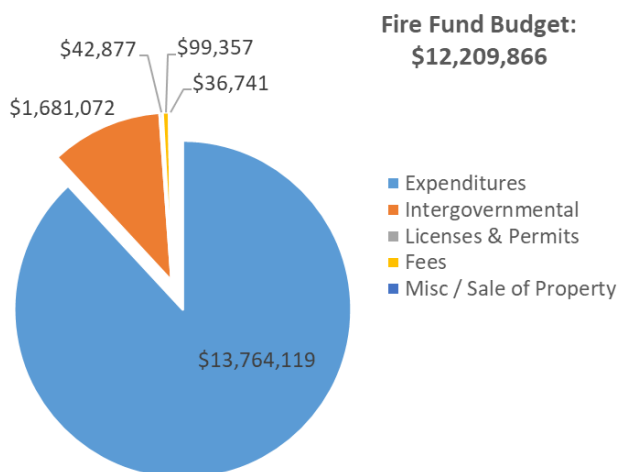
The Idaho Falls Fire Department is committed to providing professional life-saving services, ensuring the safety and security of our community.

Philosophy

Our philosophy is one that believes in superior selfless service; placing them before us to ensure a safe and secure community. We subscribe to the mantra: I am not here for me, I am here for we, and we are here for them.

As public servants, our mission is to save lives and property, and we do that by being intelligently aggressive and tactically proficient. We believe in the values of loyalty, duty, hard work, respect, service, honesty, integrity, and trust.

We believe in being fully involved participants in our future by doing our job, treating people right, having an all-in attitude, and giving an all-out effort. By doing this we recognize that excellence is our individual responsibility. We take ownership of ourselves and our organization as we commit to a culture of continual improvement.



PERSONNEL

Full-time personnel: 125

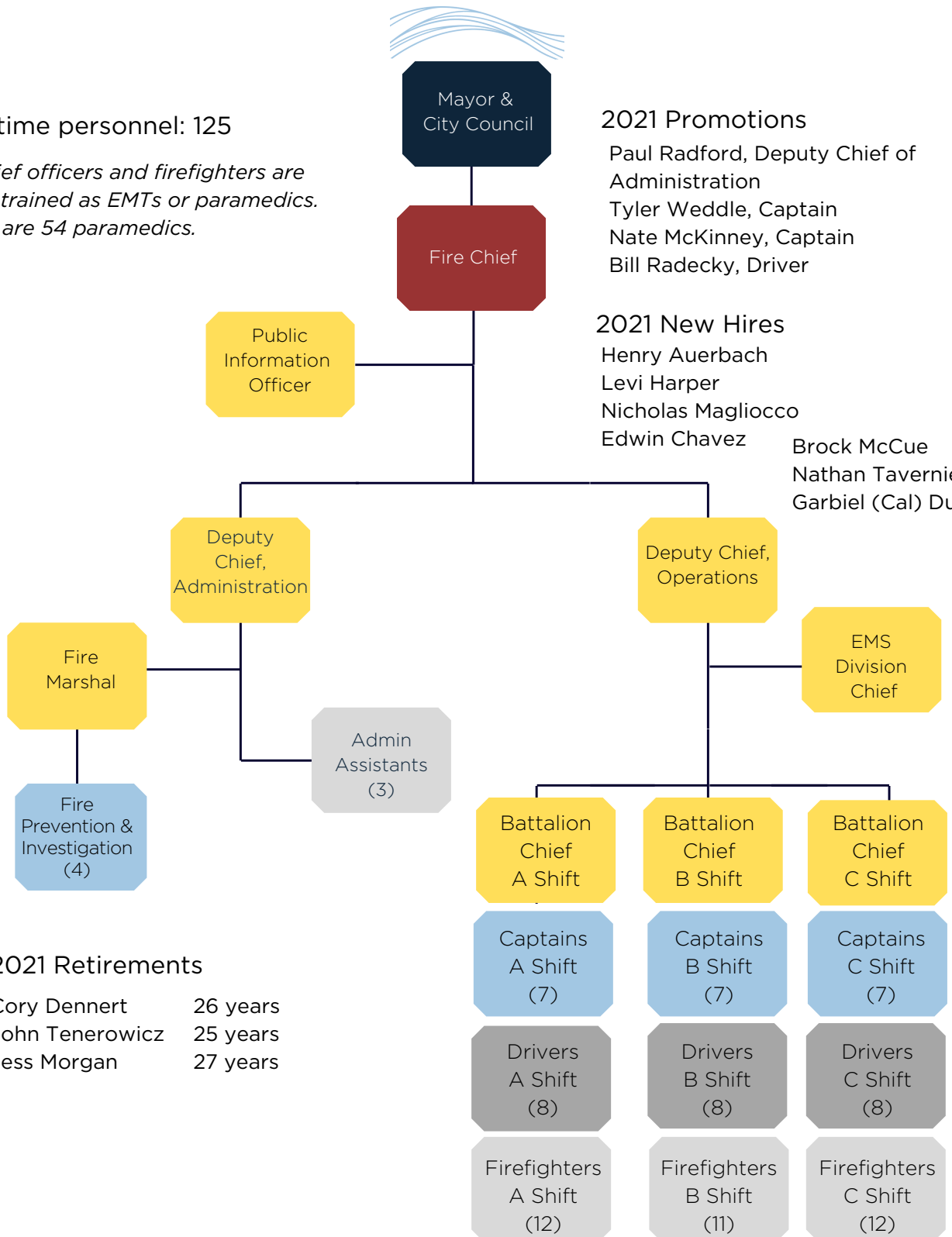
All chief officers and firefighters are cross-trained as EMTs or paramedics. There are 54 paramedics.

2021 Promotions

Paul Radford, Deputy Chief of Administration
Tyler Weddle, Captain
Nate McKinney, Captain
Bill Radecky, Driver

2021 New Hires

Henry Auerbach
Levi Harper
Nicholas Magliocco
Edwin Chavez
Brock McCue
Nathan Tavernier
Garbiel (Cal) Duus

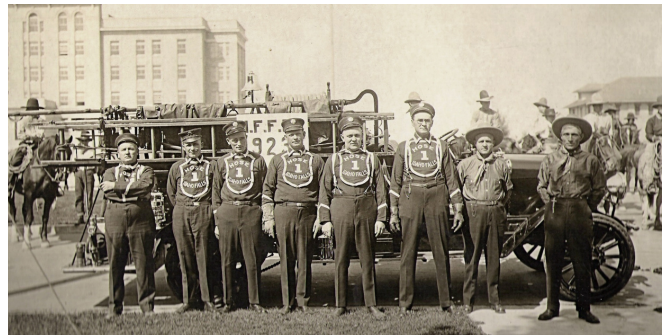


2021 Retirements

Cory Dennert	26 years
John Tenerowicz	25 years
Jess Morgan	27 years

HISTORY

The Idaho Falls Fire Department began in the early days when the city was known as Eagle Rock. Early in 1885, Eagle Rock experienced a fire that wiped out nearly all of the frame shacks along Eagle Rock Street. On a Sunday night in 1885, twenty men gathered in the Brewery Saloon where they appointed volunteers to serve on the first fire department: Ed F. Winn, Chief; William A. Wheller, Assistant Chief; W.B. Green, Secretary; and Jon Glen, Treasurer.



Each volunteer paid a \$1 fee, and a vote was cast to buy a hose cart. To raise money for the cart, a dance was held at Glen Wheeler's house on New Year's night, ending with a midnight supper at Dick Chamberlain's saloon. A hose cart and 300 feet of hose were purchased with the \$150 raised that evening. The railroad company agreed to install three fire hydrants to assist the newly created department. Over the next few years, volunteers in brightly colored uniforms and the man-drawn equipment were the extent of the department. It was not until 1907 that the man-drawn cart was replaced by a horse-drawn wagon. At this time, Julius Marker, who later became fire chief, was appointed as the first driver of the horse-drawn wagon. He was also the first firefighter to receive pay.

Thanks to more than two years of strong will and determination by the department, motorized firefighting equipment replaced the horse-drawn apparatus in 1916. In 1919, the department purchased a second motorized fire engine and increased the number of paid personnel to six, plus the chief. The early fire department was housed in several different locations throughout the city before moving to the city building on Shoup Avenue in 1930. This station and fire department headquarters served the department and the community until 2017 when headquarters moved to a newly constructed station located at 343 E Street.

HISTORY



On June 9, 2021, we ceremoniously pushed in Ladder 1 at Station 1 Headquarters. Thanks to the support of the community, elected officials, department leadership and the work of Captain Wynn Whitmeyer, Captain Mark Pitcher, Driver Kyle Smith, and Driver Jared Gyllenskog, we placed Idaho Falls' newest ladder truck into service.

The new ladder truck was built from the bottom up, specifically to meet the needs of IFFD. It was built by Pierce Manufacturing and Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc and is an Arrow XT 100' Ascendant Aerial ladder truck. The truck is a replacement apparatus for the older yellow ladder truck, which was placed into reserve status.

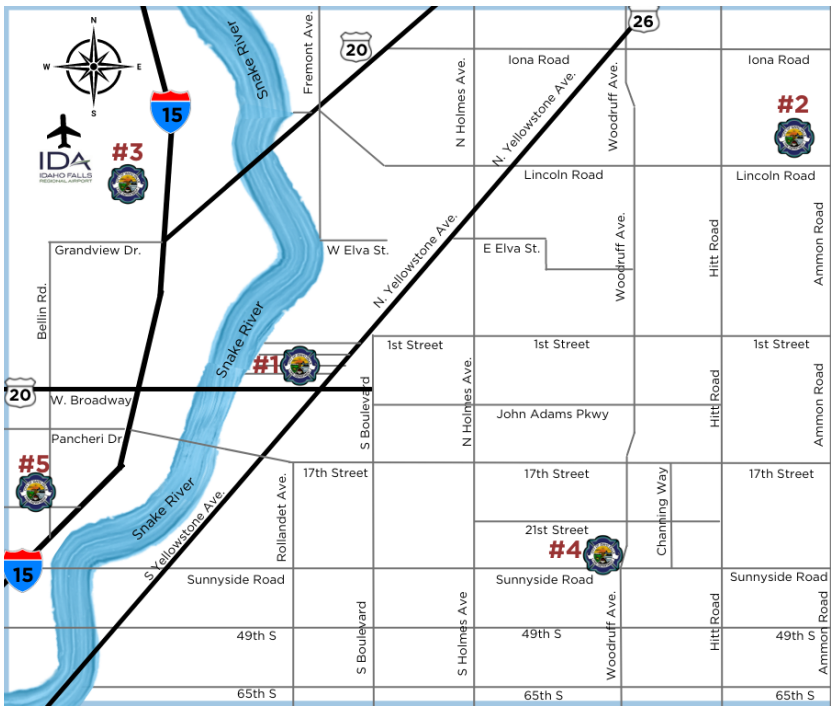


Photo credit: Hughes Fire Equipment

Stations

FIRE

FIRE STATIONS



FIRE STATIONS

Station 1 Headquarters
343 E Street

*Station 2
3475 Leihm Lane

Station 3
2125 Federal Way

Station 4
3180 S Woodruff Avenue

Station 5
1755 S Bellin Road

**The station 2 building and equipment are owned by Bonneville County Fire Prevention District #1, but staffed by IFFD personnel. IFFD also has one ambulance crew in Swan Valley, providing around-the-clock EMS services to the eastern portion of Bonneville County.*



FIRE

OPERATIONS



Emergency Response Vehicles



12 Ambulances	6 Brush Trucks	6 Admin Staff Vehicles
8 Engines	2 100" Ladder Truck	2 Battalion Chief Vehicles
3 HEMTTs	2 Aircraft Rescue	4 Fire Prevention Vehicles
5 Tenders	1 Regional Hazmat Vehicle	1 F150

Specialty Teams

Hazardous Material	Fire Investigation	Self-contained Breathing Apparatus
Swift Water Rescue	Bicycle Response	Airport Rescue Firefighting (ARFF)
Wildland Firefighting	Trust Team	All-Hazard Incident Response
Peer Fitness	Tactical Medic	Idaho Technical Search and Rescue

Mutual Aid Agreements

Bonneville County Fire Protection District, Ambulance & Sheriff's Office	Department of Energy - Idaho Operations
Central Fire District	Jefferson & Bingham County Ambulance Service
Shelley Rural Fire District	ISU Paramedic Program
Blackfoot & Caribou County	District 7 EMS
City of Ammon	Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Department of Lands/BLM/Forest Service	Idaho Falls Community Hospital
Upper Snake Inter-agency Wildfire Group	

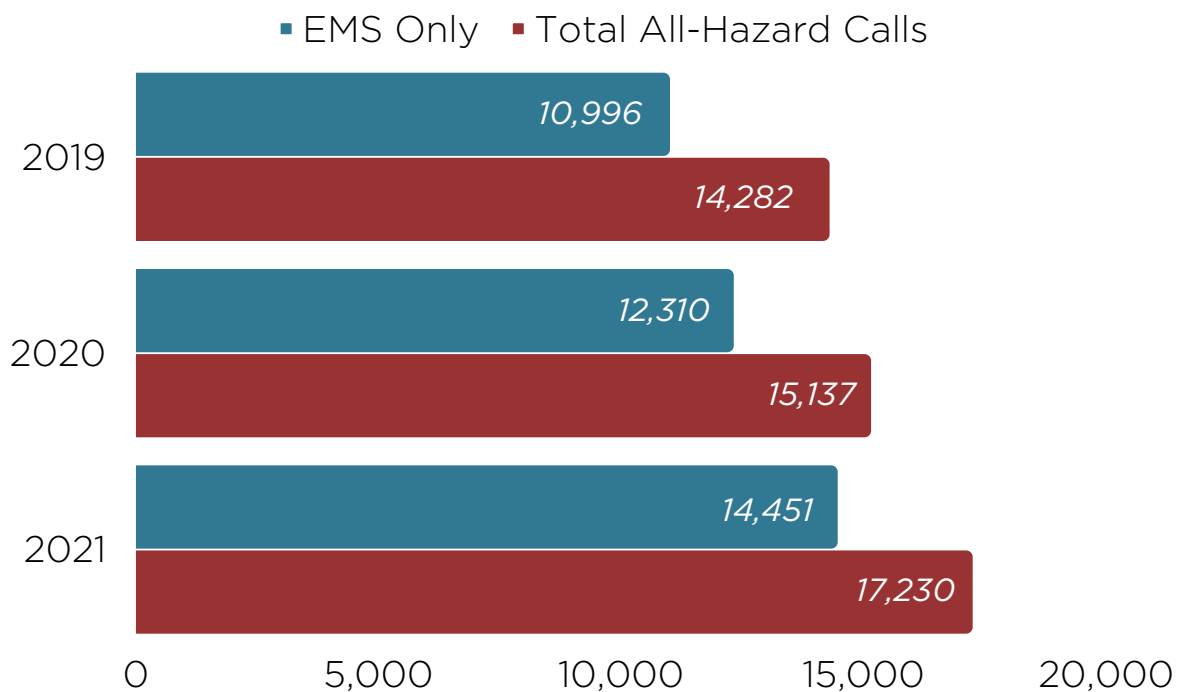


OPERATIONS



Total Calls for Service

IFFD responds to fires and other all-hazard calls for the City of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County Fire Protection District #1, serving a population of approximately 117,000 and 290 square miles. Our EMS Division responds to a larger area that includes the City of Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, and portions of Jefferson and Bingham Counties, serving a population of approximately 155,000 and 3,500 square miles.



OPERATIONS



All-hazard Calls by Type



	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Rescue & EMS:	11,018	12,310	14,451
Good intent:	2,275	1,619	1,479
False alarm/system malfunction:	451	554	607
Fire:	220	252	290
Hazardous conditions (no fire):	221	269	262
Service:	90	85	99
Severe weather & natural disaster:	2	1	1
Special incident type:	4	4	13
Overpressure, explosion, overheat:	6	9	6

OPERATIONS



Calls by Response Areas

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Idaho Falls	9,473	10,019	11,599
Bonneville County	2,062	2,055	2,247
Ammon	1,007	1,102	1,290
Jefferson County	879	918	942
Bingham County	415	516	540
Rigby	31	76	141
Ririe	96	106	104
Iona	77	94	90
Roberts	90	71	79
Swan Valley	36	43	58
Ucon	47	53	55
Irwin	27	19	30
Unknown	36	60	49
Shelley	4	2	4
Lewisville	0	2	2
Menan	2	1	0
TOTAL	14,282	15,137	17,230



OPERATIONS



Pinewood Estates | fatality fire | Feb. 13



Johnson Street | June 16



Bridge fire | April 19



Greentree Lane | June 11



Highland Drive | June 17



Extrication | water treatment facility | Shelly/Blackfoot Fire, Bingham Sheriff's Office, Portneuf Air | July 8



Wildland deployment | Morgan Creek Fire | Steamboat Springs, CO | Aug. 6



Stolen car removed from Snake River | July 29



Dalmatian Drive | Aug. 9

OPERATIONS



Trespasser electrocuted
Idaho Falls Power | Aug. 15



French Fire | Kernville, CA | Sept. 9



D93 school bus accident | Sept. 13



Super T Transport | Nov. 19



Abandoned RV | Nov. 18



N. Boulevard | Oct. 14



E 13th Street | fatality fire | Dec. 17

Training

FIRE

TRAINING



Extrication training



IDA Mass Casualty Incident Drill



Confined space training



Live burn training | Snake River Landing | July 26

In March, we welcomed Frank Viscuso, Best-selling Author, entrepreneur, and Speaker to Idaho Falls. Chief Viscuso taught concepts from his book, "Step Up and Lead."



RECRUIT ACADEMY



Academy 2021-01



Academy 2021-02





FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION



Investigations

Accidental	201
Undetermined	74
Incendiary	11
Natural	2

Inspections

New Construction	492
Business Registration	192
Requested	58
Daycare	34
Life Safety	19
Complaints	9



Permits

Alcohol Catering	134
Target Hazards	103
General Operations	51
Firework Stand/Display	31
Fire Protection Systems	119

TOTAL	438
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Reviews

Fire Code Permit Reviews	133
Site Plan Reviews	76
Planned Unit Development Reviews	16
Plat Reviews	81
Conditional Use Permit Reviews	7
P.W.C.P. Reviews	8
Commercial Building Permit Reviews	179

TOTAL	500
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Life Safety License	48
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Income

Fire Code Permits	\$31,955.33
Plan Review	\$87,231.04
Life Safety License	\$4,750.00
TOTAL	\$123,936.37



FIRE

PUBLIC INFORMATION



Followers 2021: 5,187
Followers 2020: 4,394



NEW this year: IFFD
is on Instagram!



IFFD virtual tours and
more on You Tube.



Followers 2021: 418
Followers 2020: 367



Neighborhood
Public Safety App



Stay Informed! Sign up for
alerts & notifications.
www.idahofalls.gov.

Safety Campaigns



Holiday Safety Demonstrations



Turkey Fryer | Servpro



Dry Christmas Tree | Servpro

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & OUTREACH



Night Out at the Chukars



Fill the Boot MDA fundraiser
Another record-breaking year!



9/11 Heroes Defense Fundraiser
Artist: Elena Johnson
Donated to IFFD by Crystal Allen



Bay 2 Brooklyn Ride in remembrance of 9/11



Welcome home event for two-time
American Legion World Series champions



Local 1565 food drive delivery



Just Serve fire hydrant
painting project



Real Heroes Trunk or Treat

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & OUTREACH



Bill Parrish Family 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament



Batteries Plus adopts IFFD for the holidays



Independence Day Parade



Heroes Defense 9/11 Dinner & Auction



Guns Vs. Hoses Softball Tournament, benefiting Make A Wish Foundation. IFFD for the win!



Grilling with Gratitude I.F. African American Alliance



FF Riley Esplin returns power chair to patient's home following a call.



FF/Medic Jeff Hayes brings new jacket to child after her jacket was cut off to provide medical care following a vehicle accident.
Photo credit: EIRMC



Covid-19 vaccine clinic at Lincoln Court



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idahofallsidaho.gov/1229/Fire-Department